

HOUSE RESOLUTION 428

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Diana Ross.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to honor those individuals who, through their extraordinary musical talents, have distinguished themselves in the arts, becoming permanent fixtures in American music; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding musician is Diana Ross, one of the most widely-known female performers in the world; and

WHEREAS, born March 26, 1944, to Fred and Ernestine Ross, Ms. Ross grew up in Detroit; and

WHEREAS, at a very young age, she began singing with the choir of her family's church and, by the age of fifteen, was invited to join a girl group, the Primettes; she joined three of her classmates and neighbors in the group, which soon began performing in local clubs and talent shows; and

WHEREAS, in 1961, the Primettes changed their name to the Supremes and were signed to a record deal by Motown label head Berry Gordy; and

WHEREAS, by 1964, Ms. Ross had assumed the role of lead singer for the Supremes, and the group had its first number-one single, "Where Did Our Love Go"; the eight following singles during the next three years would also reach the top of the charts; and

WHEREAS, Diana Ross embarked upon a solo career in 1970, leaving the Supremes and releasing an eponymous first solo album; she maintained her presence on the charts with singles such as "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and "Reach Out and Touch (Somebody's Hand)"; and

WHEREAS, the albums *Everything is Everything* and *Surrender* solidified her standing as a solo artist, leading to the network television special *Diana!* in 1971, and paving the way for a move into acting as the star of the Billie Holiday biopic *Lady Sings the Blues* in 1972, a performance which earned her an Oscar nomination; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ross continued her success throughout the 1970s with such hit singles as “Touch Me in the Morning,” as well as an album of duets with label mate Marvin Gaye and a starring role in the movie *Mahogany*; during that time, she also released well-received albums such as *The Boss* and staged a solo Broadway show that earned her a Tony award; and

WHEREAS, after releasing the number-one single “Endless Love” for the Motown label in 1981, Ms. Ross moved to RCA, for which she would record many successful albums during the 1980s, including *Why Do Fools Fall in Love?*, *Silk Electric*, and *Swept Away*; and

WHEREAS, she returned to Motown in 1989 and broadened her various creative avenues throughout the 1990s with such projects as collaborations with Placido Domingo and José Carreras and acting roles in television films *Out of Darkness* and *Double Platinum*; among many other career highlights of that time, she was the featured performer during the half-time show of *Super Bowl XXX* in 1996; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Ms. Ross ended her second tenure with Motown and focused her creative energies on live performances, staging successful tours in Europe and the United States; in the years since, she has added to her entertainment legacy with a new album, *I Love You*, which was released in 2007, appearances on television shows, and more live tours; and

WHEREAS, throughout a stellar career, Diana Ross has been no stranger to accolades; she has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, designation as the Golden Globe New Star of the Year, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, multiple Grammy Awards, the BET Lifetime Achievement Award, and a Kennedy Center Honor; and

WHEREAS, her countless professional achievements aside, Ms. Ross is the loving mother of five children, Rhonda Ross Kendrick, Tracee Ellis Ross, Chudney Ross, Ross Arne Næss, and Evan Olav Ross; and

WHEREAS, Diana Ross is a highly-accomplished individual who has contributed significantly to the arts and to the entertainment of citizens all over the United States, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Diana Ross for her venerable career in the music industry and wish her every success in all of her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.